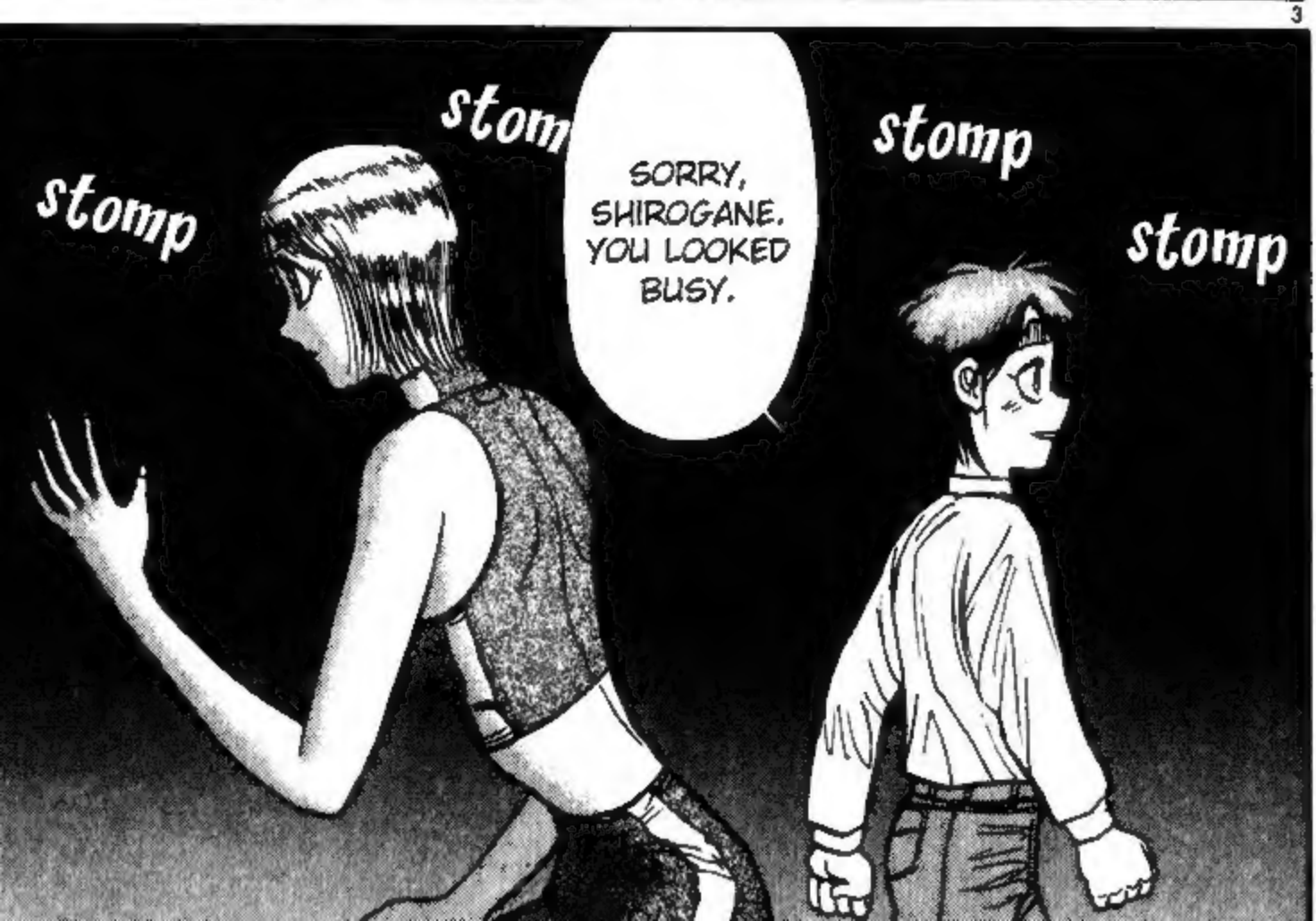
# Intermission III～Shirogane's Crisis in the Nakamachi Circus

I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND THE YOUNG MASTER ...
HUH? I WANNA BE WITH SHIRO-GANE, THOUGH.
YOU'RE GONNA BE DRIVING THE OLD YELLER'S ONE-BOX, HIRO.
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE BY NOON.
ALL RIGHT, THE PACKING'S DONE.
Why are you giving orders?
All right, people, time for a break.
OH, DEAR... MY HIGH SCHOOL IS CLOSE BY, SO WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GO TOGETHER ...
MASARU-SAN WENT TO GO SAY GOODBYE TO HIS TEACHER AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

SOMEHOW I FEEL AS IF HE'S NOT TELLING ME ANYTHING LATELY...
.....
SORRY ABOUT THAT! I'M BACK NOW.
OKAY.
ER ...
YOUNG MASTER, I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO WITH YOU...

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SORRY, SHIROGANE. YOU LOOKED BUSY.

WHERE ARE WE GOING NEXT?
UM... TO THE KINKI REGION ...
GREAT! IS IT SHIKOKU?
OF COURSE NOT, DUMMY!
OKAY, LET'S GET GOING!
S-SURE, BUT...
BUT I'VE WANTED TO RIDE IN A THREE-WHEEL FOR A LONG TIME. HIRO-SAAAN, WHY DON'T YOU SWITCH WITH ME?
W-WELL THEN, WHY DON'T WE RIDE IN THE TRUCK ON OUR WAY THERE, YOUNG MASTER?
4
UH-UH. NOTHING AT ALL.
PERHAPS HAVE DONE SOMETHING... TO UPSET YOU?
M-MIGHT I...
E-ER ...
YOUNG MAS-TER ...
カク カク
.....

I MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE...

I MUST ...
SH-SHIRO-GANE-SAN, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

WELL, SHE'S CERTAINLY LOST HER COOL NOW THAT SHE HAS.
SHIROGANE HADN'T NOTICED ANYTHING AFTER ALL.
Liese's got it rough too
I... I DON'T KNOW...
RATTLE
RATTLE
LIESE-SAN, WHAT COULD IT BE? WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE TO THE YOUNG MASTER?!
SHAKE SHAKE SH

HE CAN'T TELL HER THAT.
SO, Y'KNOW ...
WELL, MASARU'S FEELING LIKE UP TILL NOW, SHE'S NEVER FUSSED OVER ANYONE BUT HIM... BUT NOW THERE'S THIS INJURED FOREIGNER AROUND...

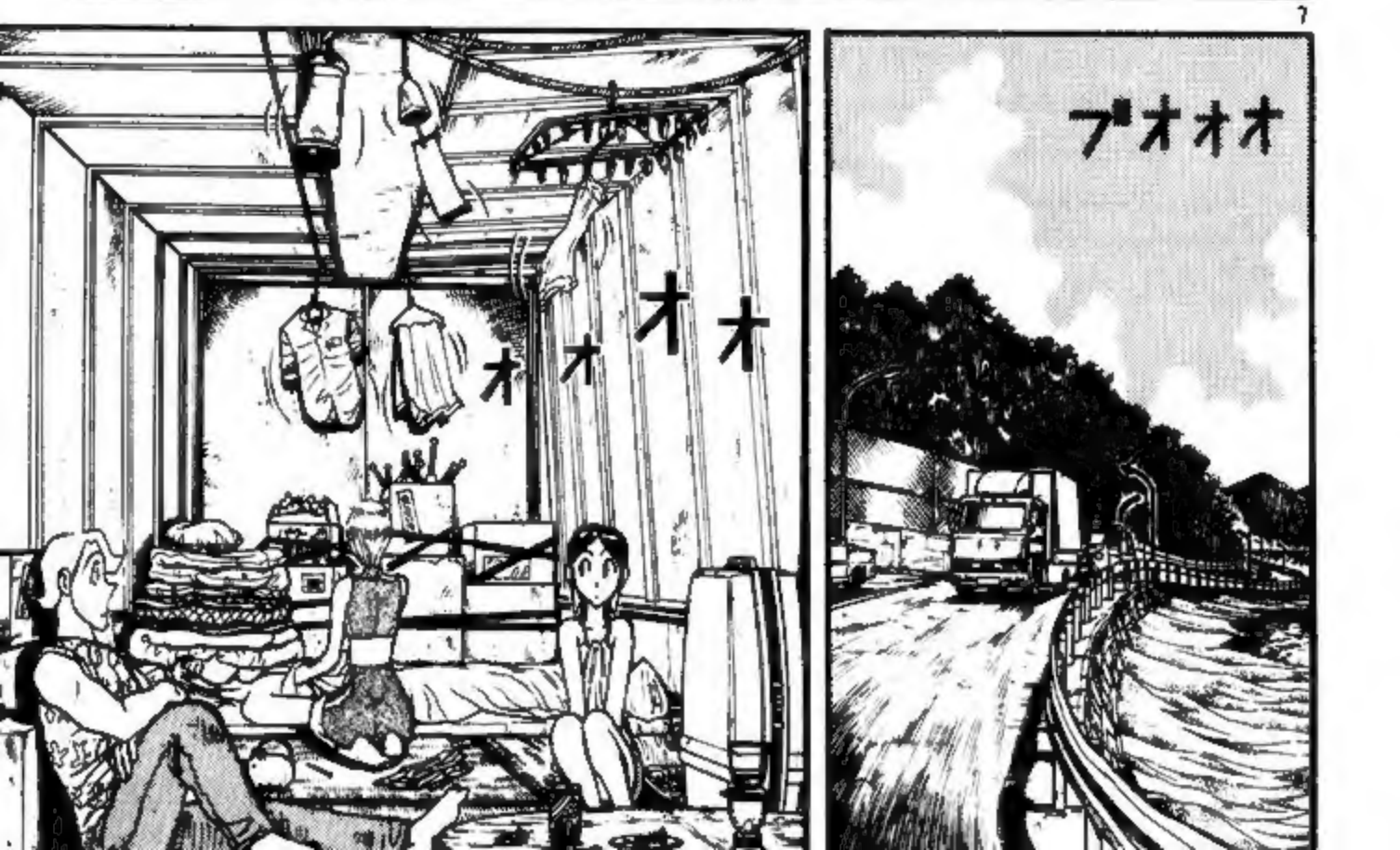
Although, actually, Naota wasn't.
HE'S A CHILD, AFTER ALL. THEY'RE VERY NAIVE AT THAT AGE.
MASARU KNOWS THAT TOO. THAT'S WHY HE'S ACTING LIKE THAT.
TCH! WELL, IT'S NOT FUN FOR ME, EITHER, BUT HE'S THE TEACHER WHO RAISED HER. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE ABOUT IT.

WHEN HE GETS ANGRY, IT'S ALWAYS ON SOMEONE ELSE'S BEHALF.
THAT KID'S A FUNNY ONE.

ALL THAT STUFF MAY BE TRUE... BUT THERE'S MORE TO IT.
OLD MAN ...
WE'D BETTER LEAVE IT ALONE.
HUH?

HEY, SHIROGANE, THAT MAN WE FISHED OUT OF THE SEA...
GUY, WAS IT? HOW'S HE DOING?
Right... After another 2 or 3 days of bedrest, we ought to be able to let him off as we go along...
YOUR SPIRITS ARE SO LOW, SHIROGANE ...
THEY'RE USUALLY SO HIGH ...
Well, not that much higher...
AHA! LET'S SWITCH TO A LIGHTER SUB-JECT!
HEY, THAT GUY'S A PUPPET USER TOO, RIGHT?
BUT WHILE HE WAS PRACTICING ON HIS VOYAGE HERE, HE FELL OUT OF THE SHIP?!
WHAT A DOPE, HUH ?!
Yes, he really is...
Shiro-gane-san!
FLOP
IT DIDN'T WORK!

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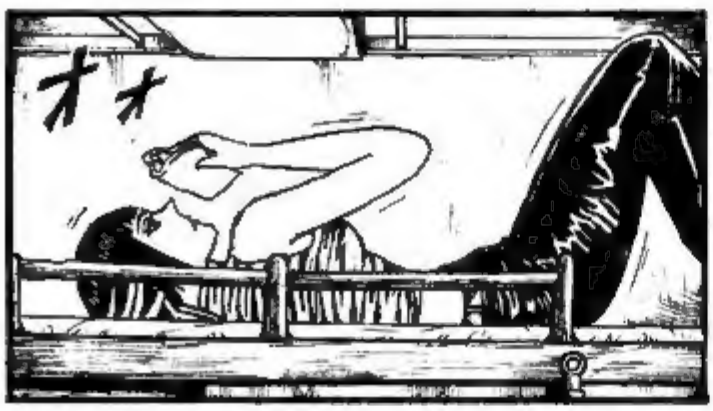

OPTION 1 HE DIDN'T LIKE THE UNDERPANTS I BOUGHT HIM RECENTLY.

Yes
No

THE YOUNG MASTER IS RELATIVELY FOND OF RABBITS.

OPTION 2 HE DIDN'T LIKE THE WHITE ASPARAGUS I SERVED HIM AT DINNER LAST NIGHT.

Yes
No

IT SEEMED THAT HE MANAGED TO EAT IT WITH THE HELP OF A GREAT DEAL OF MAYONNAISE.

(SINCE THE RINGMASTER DOESN'T ALLOW ANY PICKINESS AT MEALS.)

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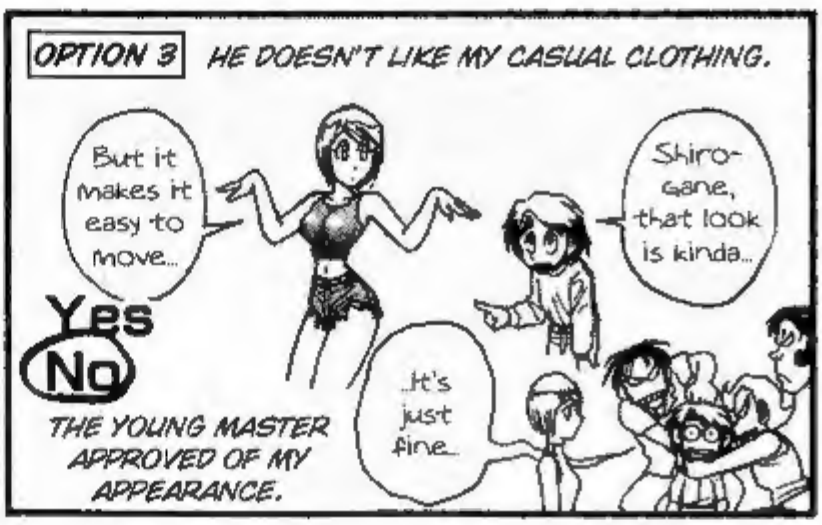
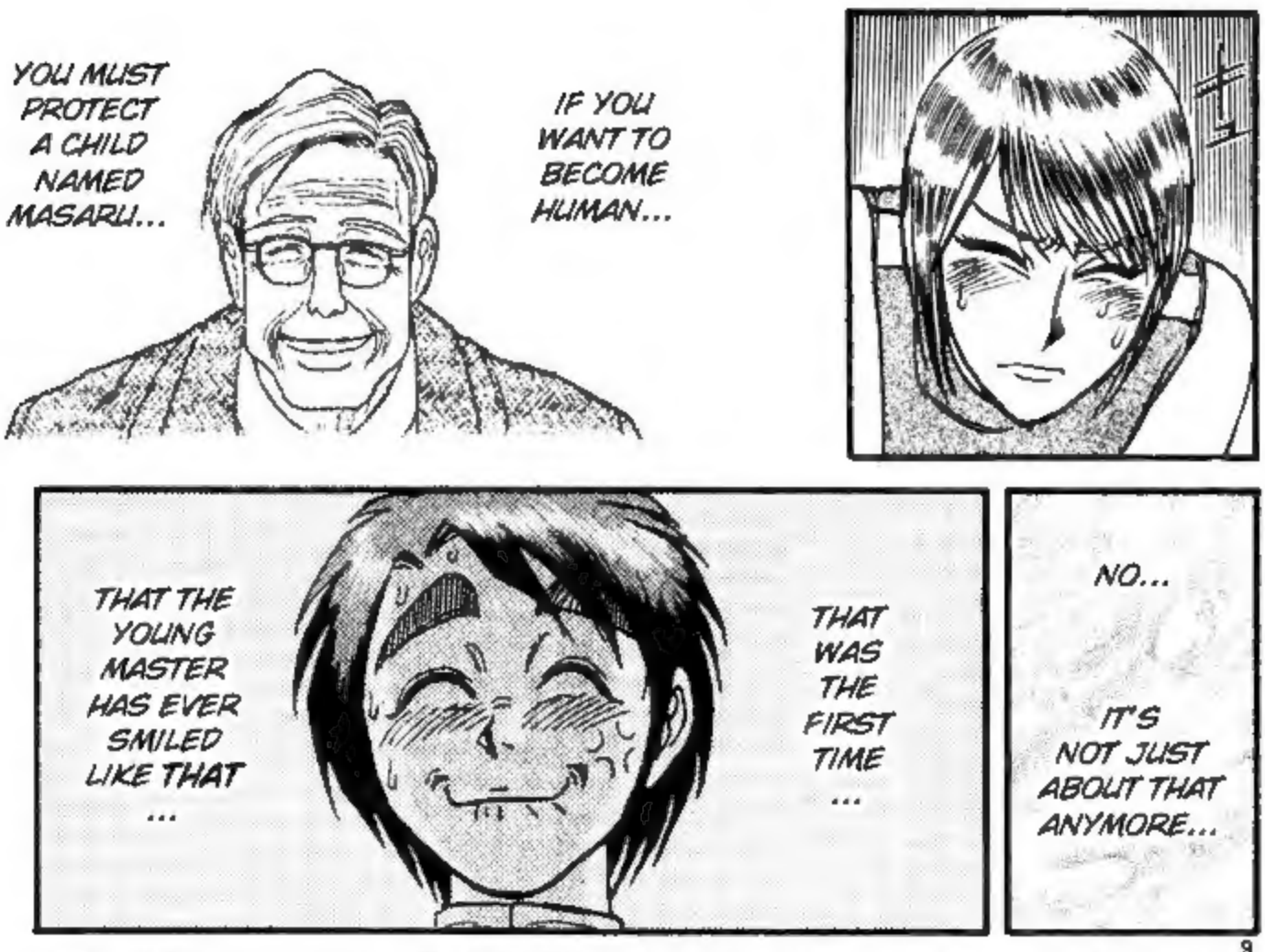
OPTION 4 HE... HAS COME TO DISLIKE ME.

OPTION 3 HE DOESN'T LIKE MY CASUAL CLOTHING.




Yes
No

THE YOUNG MASTER APPROVED OF MY APPEARANCE.


YOU MUST PROTECT A CHILD NAMED MASARU...
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME HUMAN...
NO... IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THAT ANYMORE...
THAT THE YOUNG MASTER HAS EVER SMILED LIKE THAT ...
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME ...

EXCUSE ME... MAY I SIT DOWN?
OH... LIESE-SAN.
AND IT WAS AT ME!
H-HEY, LIESE ...
SHIRO-GANE-SAN, YOU'RE VERY MYSTE-RIOUS.
.....
HM?
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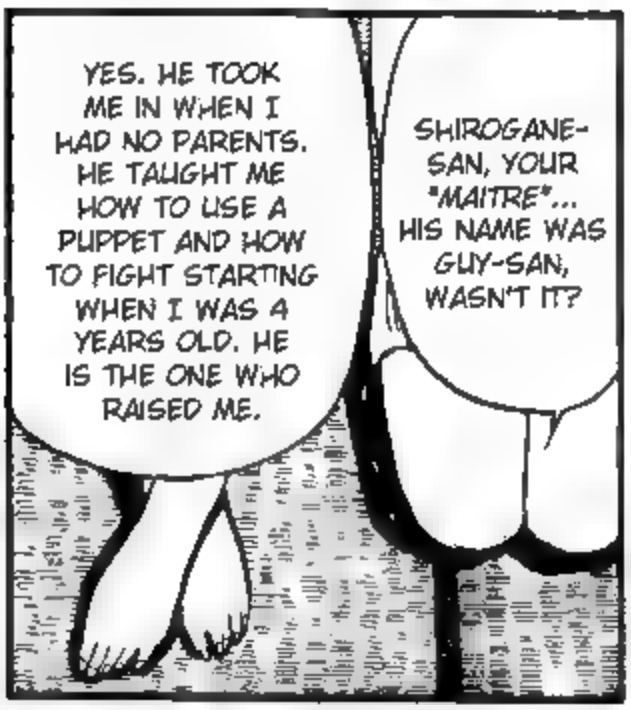
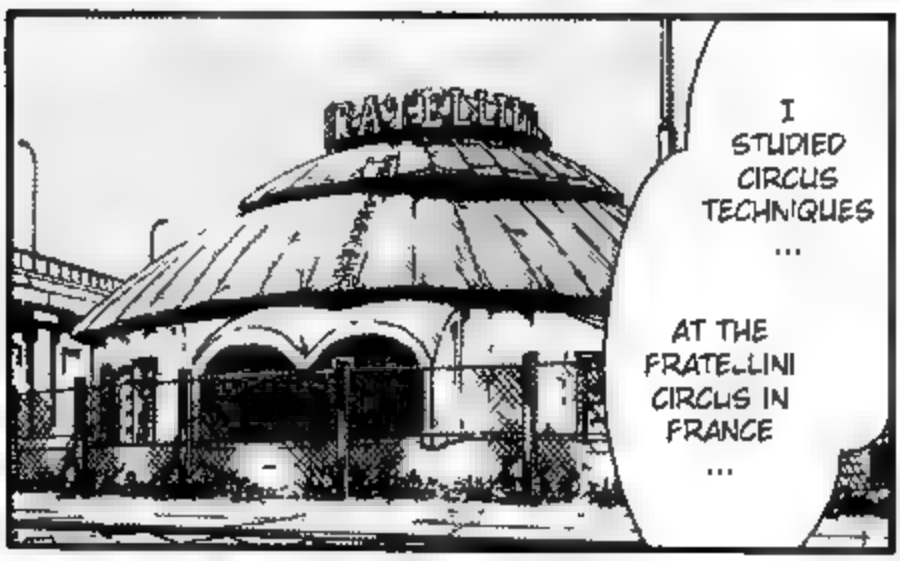
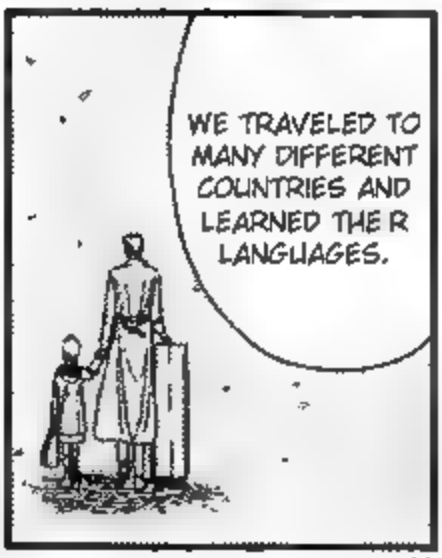
.....
BUT JUDGING FROM THE TECHNIQUES YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR MARIONETTE AND THE WAY YOU KEEP YOUR COOL IN AN EMERGENCY... YOU MUST HAVE HAD A VERY DIFFICULT LIFE.
I KNOW... THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN VERY LONG SINCE I JOINED THIS CIRCUS... AND I DON'T KNOW YOU VERY WELL...
AND HE'S SUDDENLY STARTED TO FEEL LONELY BECAUSE OF IT.
I'M SURE THAT MASARU-SAN HAS NOTICED THAT...
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD MASARU-SAN ABOUT YOUR OLD LIFE, HAVE YOU, SHIROGANE-SAN?
... THAT'S RIGHT.

I KNOW, BECAUSE... I PROBABLY... TREATED MY BIG SISTER LIKE THAT AS WELL...
AT A TIME LIKE THIS, IF HE'S WITH YOU, HE'S BOUND TO MAKE A NASTY FACE AND SAY CRUEL THINGS, DON'T YOU THINK?
THAT'S A VERY UGLY THING... AND HE'S SURELY DOING THIS BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT...
...AND THAT'S WHY HE'S AVOIDING ME...?


SHIROGANE-SAN, YOUR "MAITRE"... HIS NAME WAS GUY-SAN, WASN'T IT?
YES. HE TOOK ME IN WHEN I HAD NO PARENTS. HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE A PUPPET AND HOW TO FIGHT STARTING WHEN I WAS 4 YEARS OLD. HE IS THE ONE WHO RAISED ME.

GREAT JOB, LIESE!!
AWE-SOME !!


I STUDIED CIRCUS TECHNIQUES ...
AT THE FRATELLINI CIRCUS IN FRANCE ...


WE TRAVELED TO MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND LEARNED THE R LANGUAGES.

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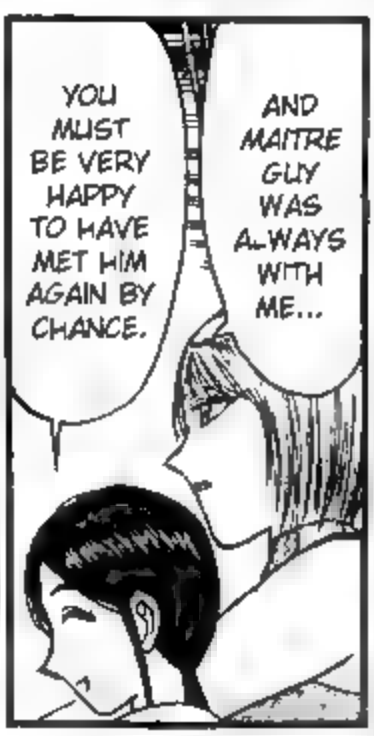
SINCE A SIDE OF YOU THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT HAS BEEN COMING OUT MORE AND MORE SINCE GUY-SAN APPEARED...
I WONDER IF MASARU-SAN HASN'T STARTED TO FEEL LONELY.


YOU MUST BE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE MET HIM AGAIN BY CHANCE.
AND MAITRE GUY WAS ALWAYS WITH ME...

AND ACROBATICS WITH THE WU ZHOU ACROBATIC TROUPE.

NICE WORK, LIESE !!
MASARU-SAN DOESN'T HAVE ANY FAMILY, DOES HE?
NOR ANYONE HE REMEMBERS FROM LONG AGO ...

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THAT GIRL IS PRETTY GOOD... AT HANDLING HEAVY MATTERS TOO.
HOHO... HERE I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST A SPACY KID...

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DUMB-ASS!
I-I'M NOT MAD AT SHIROGANE AT ALL, NORI-SA—
HUH?
YOU'RE MAD AT HER, AIN'TCHA?
HEY, MASARU, HURRY UP AND FORGIVE SHIROGANE, WILL YA?
LISTEN UP, MASARU! MAYBE SHIROGANE'S BEEN A GOOD BIG SISTER TO YOU UP TILL NOW, BUT YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO PART SOMEDAY.
SO ...
NORI-SAN ...
YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE SHIT TO HER BECAUSE YOU'RE STEWING IN JEALOUSY OVER HER GETTING ALONG WITH ANOTHER MAN, AREN'T YOU?!
I'M SORRY, NORI-SAN! I UNDERSTAND! BUT IF IT'S YOU WITH SHIROGANE, I WON'T GET JEALOUS AT ALL!!
UNTIL THE DAY I, THE AWESOME NORIYUKI, MARRY SHIROGANE!
SET ASIDE YOUR JEAL-OUSY !!
OKAY, JUST DO IT STRAIGHT UP...
COUGH
I MEAN, UH, LOOK, MASARU ...
UWEH HEH HEH HEH
And, um crying about
NORI-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?
HEH HEH HEH HEH

I DON'T WANT TO.
JUST HURRY UP AND FORGIVE HER, MASARU.

HUH?! ME?
HUH?! YOU'RE REALLY THAT JEALOUS OVER THAT FOREIGNER?!

SCREE

DO I FEEL LIKE HE'S... TAKING SHIROGANE AWAY FROM ME...?
UM...

OF COURSE WE DID!
HMPH...
SO YOU GUYS NOTICED I WASN'T THE SAME AS USUAL...

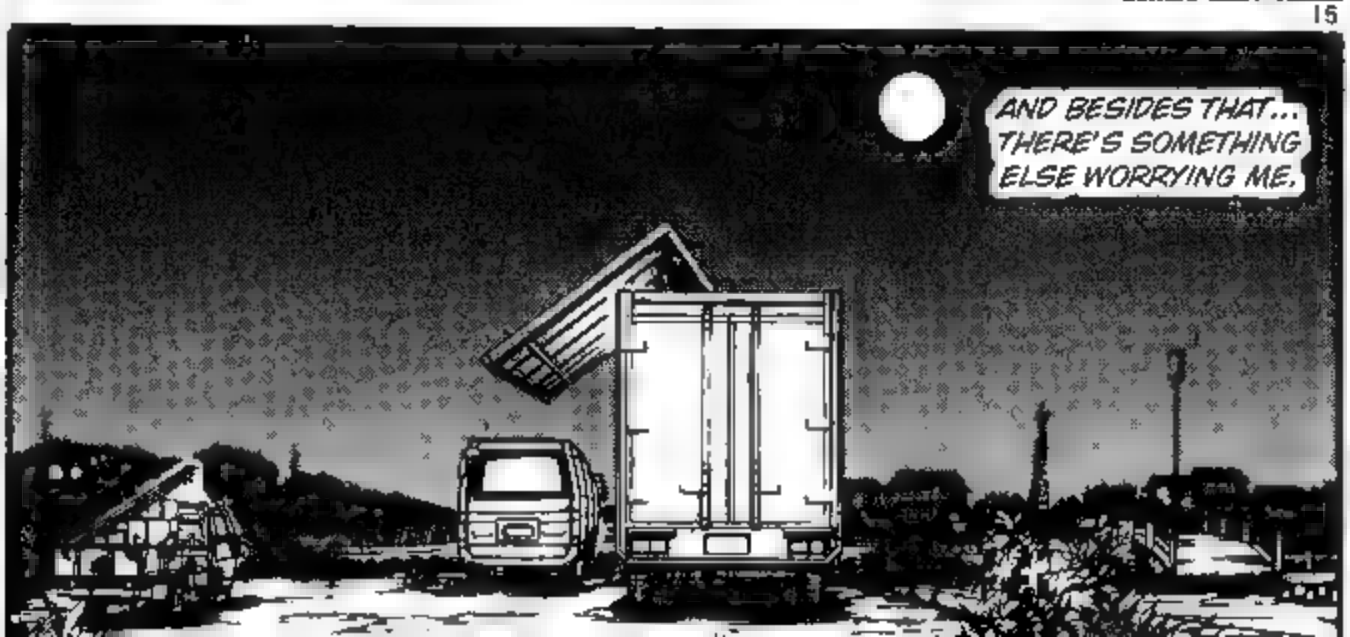
ブロロロ

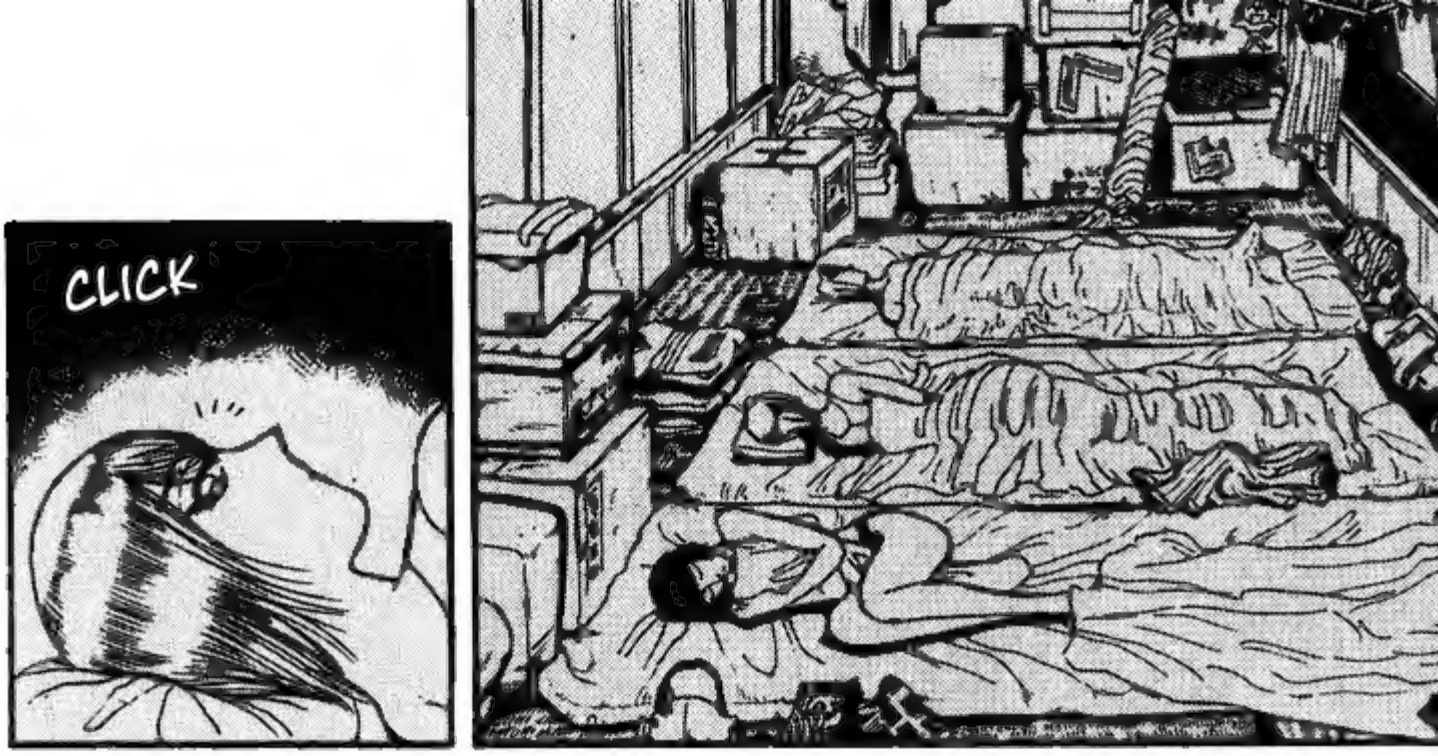
WELL, WHY THE HELL NOT?!
CAN'T JUST FORGIVE HER LIKE THAT...
BUT, YOU KNOW... NORI-SAN, I STILL...
RIGHT? SO IN THAT CASE, JUST FORGIVE HER ALREADY...

I GUESS IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY...
WELL... I DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT...

BECAUSE THE ONE WHO SHIRO-GANE'S ...
BEING TAKEN FROM ...
DEFINITELY ISN'T ME...




AND BESIDES THAT... THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WORRYING ME.


CLICK

YOUNG MASTER ...?

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?!
YOUNG MAS-TER ...

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

ONE OF ARLEQUIN'S WEAPONS... AN ARM?

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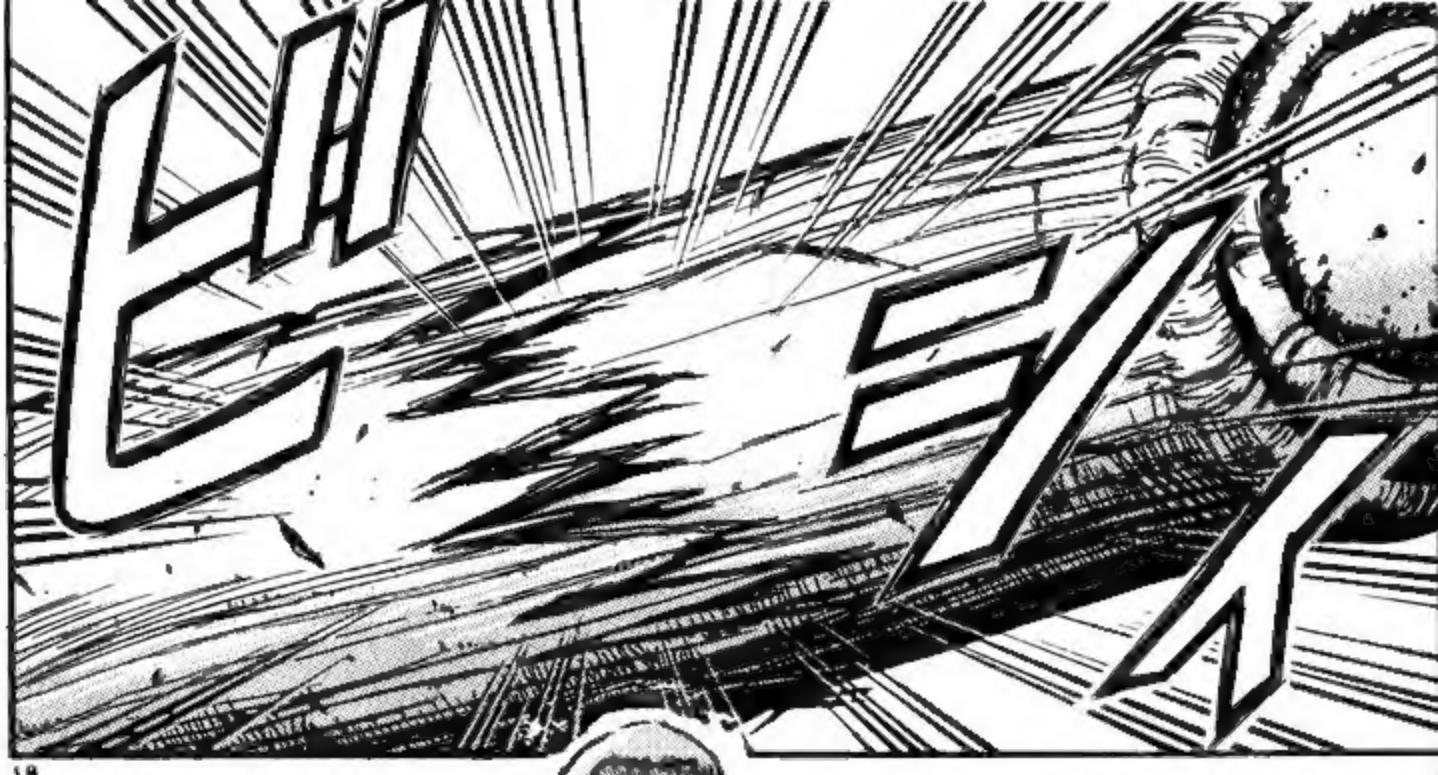
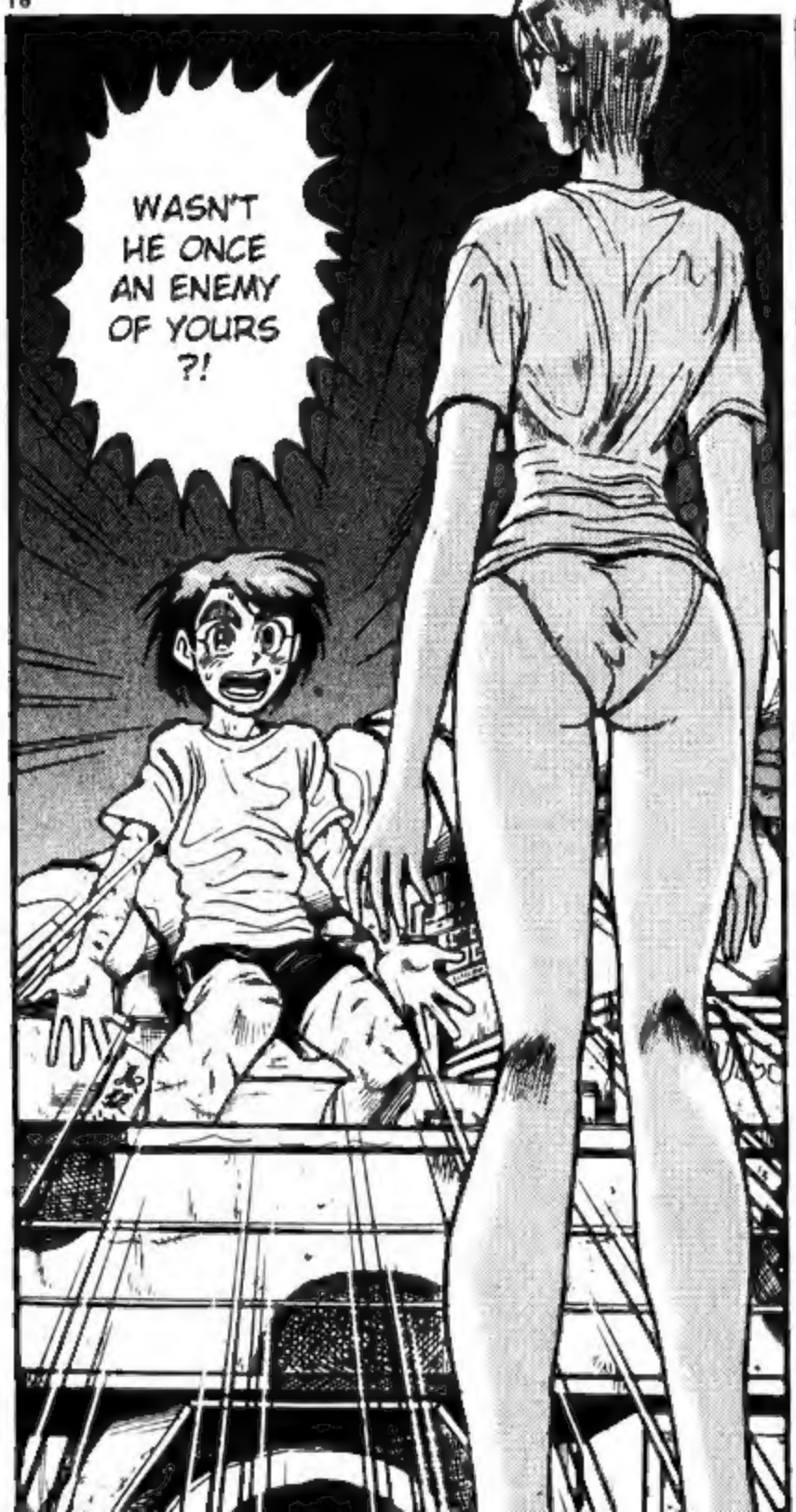
COULD THIS ARM FROM ARLEQUIN HAVE ONCE ...
THIS PUPPET... GUY-SAN CALLED IT "OLYMPIA" ...


HI-EE-YA




WASN'T HE ONCE AN ENEMY OF YOURS ?!

IT FITS!
THIS WAS ONE OF OLYMPIA'S ARMS AFTER ALL!

AH ...

YOUNG MASTER ...
SH-SHIRO-GANE ...
JUST WHO IS THIS GUY PER-SON ...?

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

**pg. 4**: The Kinki region is also known as Kansai. Shikoku is one of the four main islands that make up Japan, not a place inside Kansai.

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.